



1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, African American-owned technology firms have  
3 traditionally had few opportunities from the State of Illinois  
4 even though African Americans make up more than 14% of the  
5 population of the State of Illinois; and

6 WHEREAS, Tens of millions of dollars in State of Illinois  
7 computer contracts have gone to technology firms that are not  
8 even based in the United States, let alone in Illinois; and

9 WHEREAS, Chicago and Illinois boast some of the nation's  
10 award-winning and largest African American-owned technology  
11 firms; and

12 WHEREAS, In order to promote diversity and help employ  
13 future business leaders and empower the African American  
14 communities, the State should hire African American and  
15 minority-owned vendors for technology contracts; and

16 WHEREAS, Minority-owned firms are frequently forced to be  
17 subcontractors to non-minority technology companies because of  
18 the perception that they do not have the ability to execute  
19 substantial contracts on their own; and

20 WHEREAS, These issues are made even more urgent by the  
21 growing offshoring of technology work, as well as vendor  
22 rationalization in general; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
24 NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
25 the House Computer Technology Committee hold hearings on the  
26 lack of diversity in State technology business; and be it  
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the Committee issue a report by October 31,

1 2006 on the amount of State of Illinois business with African  
2 American-owned technology firms and on ways the State can  
3 improve its record with these companies; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we urge Governor Blagojevich to immediately  
5 begin using more African American-owned technology firms for  
6 State businesses; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8 presented to the Governor and to the Director of Central  
9 Management Services.